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THIRD CONFERENCE
ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

THIRD COMMITTEE

DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

Explanatory note

1. The following statement contains a brief account of the activities of the Third Committee and does not constitute a report in a formal or traditional sense. The objective is to provide a document of record and reference which will enable delegations, and the Committee as a whole, to continue without delay consideration of the subject-matter before the Committee at the next session of the Conference.

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE

2. The Third Committee was one of three main committees established at the first session of the Conference in New York from 3 to 15 December 1973, to deal with the subjects covered by the three sub-committees of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction.

3. The officers of the Committee were elected as follows:

Chairman	Mr. Alexander Yankov - Bulgaria
Vice-Chairmen	Mr. Alvaro Escallon Villa - Colombia
	Mr. Andreas J. Jacovides - Cyprus
	Mr. Wilhelm H. Lampe
	then
	Mr. Gerhard Breuer - Federal Republic of Germany
Rapporteur	Mr. Abdel Magied A. Hassan - Sudan

II. MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

4. By a decision of the Conference on 2 July 1974 (A/CONF.62/29), upon the recommendation of the General Committee, the Third Committee was given the task of considering the following items from the list of subjects and issues.

Item 12. Preservation of the marine environment

- 12.1 Sources of pollution and other hazards and measures to combat them
- 12.2 Measures to preserve the ecological balance of the marine environment
- 12.3 Responsibility and liability for damage to the marine environment and to the coastal State

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12.4 Rights and duties of coastal States

12.5 International co-operation

Item 13. Scientific research

13.1 Nature, characteristics and objectives of scientific research of the oceans

13.2 Access to scientific information

13.3 International co-operation

Item 14. Development and transfer of technology

14.1 Development of technological capabilities of developing countries

14.1.1 Sharing of knowledge and technology between developed and developing countries

14.1.2 Training of personnel from developing countries

14.1.3 Transfer of technology to developing countries

5. The Conference also agreed that the following understanding reached in the Sea-Bed Committee on 27 August 1971 should be carried forward in respect of the Committees of the Conference:

"While each sub-committee will have the right to discuss and record its conclusions on the question of limits so far as it is relevant to the subjects allocated to it, the main Committee will not reach a decision on the final recommendation with regard to limits until the recommendations of Sub-Committee II on the precise definition of the area have been received, which should constitute basic proposals for the consideration of the main Committee."

III. DOCUMENTATION

6. By paragraph 6 of resolution 3067 (XXVIII), the General Assembly referred to the Conference the reports of the Sea-Bed Committee and all other relevant documentation of the General Assembly and the Committee. The Third Committee thus had before it all the documentation from Sub-Committee III of the Sea-Bed Committee including in particular the notes with annexes from the Chairmen of the two Working Groups of Sub-Committee III. The texts of these notes and annexes are reproduced in the Report of the Sea-Bed Committee (A/9021, vol. I). This statement contains an annex of a list of all formal proposals presented to date to the Committee.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

7. During the second session of the Conference in Caracas from 20 June to 29 August 1974, the Third Committee worked through formal and informal meetings. It held ... formal meetings and ... informal meetings.

8. At its 2nd formal meeting held on 15 July 1974, the Committee accepted a proposal by the Chairman that it should start work with a brief general discussion to enable delegations to make statements on all the three items allocated to the Third Committee. At the conclusion of the general discussion, the Committee would hold its informal meetings to consider, alternately on a daily basis, item 12 at one meeting, and items 13 and 14 at the following meeting. The Committee agreed that when it held informal meetings on item 12 it should be under the chairmanship of Mr. José-Luis Vallarta of Mexico. On 23 July 1974 the Committee agreed that when it held its informal meetings to consider items 13 and 14 it should be under the chairmanship of Mr. Cornel Metternich of the Federal Republic of Germany.

9. During the general discussion held in the Committee, 43 delegations made statements on item 12 and 42 delegations made statements on items 13 and 14. Representatives of several specialized agencies of the United Nations and other international organizations, among them UNESCO, UNEP, IMCO and IOC, made statements regarding subjects relevant to the mandate of the Committee.

V. WORK OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE AT ITS INFORMAL MEETINGS

10. The two Chairmen of the informal meetings of the Committee on item 12 and items 13 and 14 made regular weekly reports to the Committee on progress made. These reports were the personal assessments of the Chairmen and were not binding on any delegation. The informal meetings also met as drafting and negotiating groups. At the end of the Conference session in Caracas the two Chairmen transmitted notes to the Chairman of the Committee describing the work done during the informal meetings. The texts of these notes are contained in document A/CONF.62/C.3/L... and A/CONF.62/C.3/L... respectively. The Chairmen also transmitted texts of draft articles whether agreed upon or with alternates in some cases, prepared in the informal meetings of the Committee. These texts are found in document A/CONF.62/C.3/L... as regards item 12 and for items 13 and 14 in document A/CONF.62/C.3/L...

VI. FUTURE WORK

11. The Third Committee made progress at this session of the Conference towards completion of the mandate assigned to it by the Conference. It therefore recommends that the opportunity should be provided for it to continue this work at a further session or sessions with a view to completing the drafting of articles dealing with the preservation of the marine environment, scientific research and development and transfer of technology.

Annex IList of formal proposals presented to the Committee

- A/CONF.62/C.3/L.2 Kenya: draft articles for the preservation and the protection of the marine environment for inclusion in the Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- A/CONF.62/C.3/L.4 Greece: draft articles on the enforcement of the provisions of the protection of the marine environment.
- A/CONF.62/C.3/L.5 Israel: draft articles on the enforcement of provisions of the protection of the marine environment.
- A/CONF.62/C.3/L.6 Canada, Fiji, Ghana, Guyana, Iceland, India, Iran, New Zealand, Philippines and Spain: draft articles on zonal approach to the preservation of the marine environment.
- A/CONF.62/C.3/L.7 Federal Republic of Germany: draft articles on enforcement of regulations concerning the protection of the marine environment against vessel-source pollution.
- A/CONF.62/C.3/L.8 Nigeria: draft articles on the development and transfer of technology.
- A/CONF.62/C.3/L.9 Trinidad and Tobago: draft articles on marine scientific research.
- A/CONF.62/C.3/L.10 Liberia: amendments to the draft articles on the enforcement of the provisions for the protection of the marine environment contained in document A/CONF.62/C.3/L.4.
- A/CONF.62/C.3/L.12 Brazil, Colombia, Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Gambia, Iran, Jamaica, Liberia, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Republic of Korea, Republic of Viet Nam, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia: draft articles on the development and transfer of technology.
- A/CONF.62/C.3/L.13 Colombia: draft articles on marine scientific research.
/The delegate of Colombia, as Chairman of the Group of 77, while presenting this document, would like to point out that it represents the consensus of the Group of 77 of the Third Committee, without committing the final position of members of the Group./
- A/CONF.62/C.3/L.18 Norway: Working Paper on item 12 (Preservation of the Marine Environment).
- A/CONF.62/C.3/L.19 Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Denmark, Germany, Federal Republic of, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Nepal, Netherlands, Paraguay, Singapore, Uganda, Upper Volta and Zambia: draft articles on marine scientific research.